

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Paraguay
Program Title:	Democracy & Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	526-004
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$2,600,000 DA; \$3,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA; \$3,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Completion Date:	2006

Summary: Through a range of technical assistance, training, and small grants, the democracy and governance program is developing the capacity of local governments to deliver services in response to the needs of citizens, improving the ability of civil society to put pressure on the current political system to become more responsive, and developing an open policy dialogue that allows for the inclusion of all citizens and their organizations. Citizen participation, transparency, and accountability are incorporated throughout the democracy program to promote anti-corruption efforts.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Local governance (\$2,600,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to disseminate and adapt successful models of basic service provision that involve high levels of community participation to a large number of municipalities. Communities will learn how to effectively participate in policy decisions on a local and national level. Mediation programs that reduce the number of cases that need to be heard in a formal courtroom setting will advance judicial reform. USAID will expand the overall decentralization process through the development of effective local government associations. The prime implementers are Alternatives for Life, the Information and Resources Center for Development, and the Institute of Comparative Studies in Social and Criminal Sciences (all Paraguayan organizations).

Transparency and accountability (\$3,500,000 ESF). Technical assistance and training will help local governments become more effective, accountable and capable of generating a variety of resources to provide expanded services. Further support to civil society organizations and the formation of a system of informational networks will equip civil society to provide oversight of public institutions and permit informed decisions on policy issues. The national reform agenda will be promoted through the development of coherent civil and human rights policies, constitutional reform and strengthened civilian control over the military. Chemonics (prime), Associates in Rural Development (prime) and the Paraguayan Information and Resources Center for Development (prime).

FY 2004 Program:

Local governance (\$2,000,000 DA). USAID intends to expand the number of local governments that are implementing good governance practices, including service provision, revenue enhancement and citizen participation mechanisms. Technical assistance for mediation will be provided to the Justices of the Peace as a means to provide greater access to justice at the local level. USAID will continue to support local governments and their associations to advocate for decentralization. The successful ongoing sub-grant program to strengthen civil society organizations in promoting citizen participation, citizen oversight and control, and advocacy will be expanded.

Transparency and accountability (\$3,500,000 ESF). Technical assistance will help local governments become more responsive, transparent, and accountable and will help support civil society in providing control and oversight of the public sector. Successful anti-corruption efforts will be expanded by helping local governments implement transparent practices, such as integrated financial management systems,

fiscal transparency, public hearings, and open procurement processes that assure citizen participation. In addition, local governments will implement new services and expand existing services through increased revenue generation and private partnerships. USAID will also provide technical assistance to enhance coordination and collaboration between the Controller's Office, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Supreme Court towards improving convictions of public corruption cases and strengthening the criminal justice process. Civil society organizations will be strengthened to advocate for policy reforms (decentralization, access to public information, and inclusive participation mechanisms in the public decision-making process), both at the local and national levels. USAID will promote constitutional reform by ensuring that civil society organizations actively participate in the reform process.

Performance and Results: USAID expanded the delivery of municipal services, often with increased revenue collections. A service provision project at the departmental level, in which participating municipalities shared planning and resources with the department, led to a major improvement in solid waste disposal throughout the department and a replicable model of local governments working together. A nationwide federation of local government associations was formed and is promoting local government interests on a national level. Civil society organizations successfully advocated for reforms, such as transparent public procurement. Corruption was exposed through tremendous improvements in investigative journalism, citizen oversight networks, and through the implementation of financial control systems. Not only is corruption being exposed, but corrupt officials are also being removed from office through pressure from civil society. USAID successfully worked with local governments to provide services in response to citizen demands, while at the same time working with citizen groups to provide oversight and control of their local governments.

The overall impact of the democracy program will be a deepening of the democratic process in this recently established democracy. The program is expected to increase citizen participation and confidence in a better-functioning democratic system capable of increasing and improving the delivery of basic services at the local level. USAID will strengthen democracy in Paraguay through the development of local institutions and political processes.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Paraguay

526-004 Democracy & Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	2,850	3,598
Expenditures	1,220	1,750
Unliquidated	1,630	1,848
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	2,588	3,500
Expenditures	1,748	1,591
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	5,438	7,098
Expenditures	2,968	3,341
Unliquidated	2,470	3,757
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	2,600	3,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	2,600	3,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	2,000	3,500
Future Obligations	3,100	3,500
Est. Total Cost	13,138	17,598